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CIRCLING SHARKS KEPT MEN TRAPPED ON BLAZING SHIP

PASSENGERS in the British liner City of York described in Durban yesterday how they prayed as they watched the crew of the blazing Bank Line freighter Forresbank of Glasgow being rescued from shark infested waters off the Pondoland coast south of Durban.

After sighting the Forresbank through the fog, the first lifeboat carrying Indian seamen from the Forresbank was seen moving through the heavy swell with about 20 sharks swimming near it.

Captain T. Speakman manoeuvred the City of York to pick up the men from this boat, which had been in the water more than four hours.

Captain's Wife

A second lifeboat which had drifted to the south sent up flares to attract the rescue ship. In this boat was Mrs. Simmonds (wife of the master of the Forresbank, Captain B. T. Simmonds) dressed in slacks and a jersey.

A third lifeboat could be seen at the stern of the Forresbank, and three men were on deck at the after end of the blazing vessel.

Several Forresbank officers taken on board the City of York insisted on returning in a motor boat to their ship to pick up their three stranded shipmates, then go to the assistance of a third lifeboat which was towed back to the City of York.

Terrific Explosion

Captain Simmonds, whose first command was the Forresbank, said he went back with 15 of his crew when he thought the fire had died down a bit.

"We split into two parties, one went aft and one forward. Then there was a terrific explosion from the engineroom and flame and smoke belched from the decks," he said.

"I immediately ordered the men back to the lifeboat but three of them had been trapped behind the flames and could not make it."

The lifeboat below, because of heavy seas and exhaustion, was unable to help the trio who were left standing near the stern for more than an hour as flames whipped across the ship, and there was fear of another explosion.

Captain Simmonds said the motorboat from the rescue ship arrived as the blaze increased, and the stranded men were taken off with great difficulty.

At one stage they had thought of jumping for it, in the hope of reaching a lifeboat, but a number of circling sharks were seen immediately below them.

Hinckley Man Sent For Trial On 22 Charges

JACK WHISTON (51) assistant engineer, 35, Ashby Road, Hinckley, was sent for trial to Leicester Quarter Sessions by Hinckley magistrates yesterday charged wih committing serious offences against ten boys.

Whiston, who was granted bail, faced 25 charges of gross indecency or attempted gross indecency but the magistrate, Mr. W. Chappell, found there was no case to answer on three of the charges.

In A Hut

Mr. H. V. Jackson said the ages of the boys concerned in the charges ranged from 11 to 16. The offences he alleged had taken place between January, 1957, and October this year.

They had occurred in a wooden hut in Rugby Road which Whiston used as a private workshop or in the country after he had taken the boys out for a ride in his car.

During the five hour hearing 22 witnesses gave evidence. A number of the boys stated that after the offences Whiston had given them money. One of them alleged he had received 20s.

Music Principal's Talk On Haydn

The versatility of the composer Haydn was discussed by Sir Thomas Armstrong, principal of the Royal Academy of Music, when he spoke to the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society last night.

He spoke of Haydn's amazing capacity for the production of the many different types of music. Sir Thomas's talk was illustrated with gramophone records, and he emphasised and explained certain points at the piano.

Leicestershire In Airport Talks

TALKS to discuss plans for a joint airport serving Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire are to be held in January it was announced after a meeting of Nottingham General Purposes Committee last night.

The chairman, Alderman G. Wigman said "the committee had agreed that representatives from the five local authorities—Leicestershire, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, Derby, Derbyshire,—should meet to discuss plans for the development of an airport some time in January."

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SYSTON OPERATIC SO

They have just acquire hundreds of yards through

In remarkably good condition despite its age, the cab is to be converted by the members into an advance booking office for their Christmas pantomime production of "Mother Goose."

At the moment the cab is stored in the grounds of the home of 25-year-old producer, John Tarry, Mill House, Syston.

Bought For £2

"We will paint it a bright colour and make it look as attractive as possible.

"We shall also be able to use

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